



Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, 10-14, 17-19, and 21-31, and please cancel claims 32-44, in accordance with the list of claims that begins on the following page, and which replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.



List of Claims:

1. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the first side face of the insertion member is located to define a gap between the first side face of the insertion member and the lateral surface of the housing.

~~An apparatus for detecting a lowering of a top surface of a liquid, comprising:~~

- ~~a housing having a housing hole;~~
- ~~an insertion member attached to the housing;~~
- ~~a dowel defining a dowel longitudinal axis, wherein the dowel has a first end and a second end, and wherein the dowel is inserted into the housing hole;~~
- ~~at least one float attached to the dowel;~~
- ~~a detector switch having an actuator arm, wherein the detector switch is attached to the housing, and wherein the actuator arm is located proximate the first end of the dowel; and~~
- ~~an audio transducer attached to the housing.~~

2. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the dowel and the housing hole and the insertion member hole are sized to permit movement of the dowel.

~~wherein the insertion member has an insertion member hole, wherein the insertion member hole is at least partially aligned with the housing hole; and~~

~~wherein the dowel is inserted through the insertion member hole and the housing hole.~~

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the housing hole and the insertion member hole are substantially round and have substantially a same diameter.

4. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 2,~~ An apparatus for detecting a lowering of a top surface of a liquid, comprising:

- a housing having a housing hole;
- an insertion member attached to the housing;
- a dowel defining a dowel longitudinal axis, wherein the dowel has a first end and a second end, and wherein the dowel is inserted into the housing hole;
- at least one float attached to the dowel;

a detector switch having an actuator arm, wherein the detector switch is attached to the housing, and wherein the actuator arm is located proximate the first end of the dowel; and  
an audio transducer attached to the housing; and  
wherein the insertion member has an insertion member hole, wherein the insertion member hole is at least partially aligned with the housing hole;  
wherein the dowel is inserted through the insertion member hole and the housing hole;  
and

wherein the housing has a lateral surface, and wherein the insertion member has a first side face, and wherein the lateral surface and the first side face are substantially parallel, and wherein the lateral surface and the first side face are about 1 cm apart.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the first side face of the insertion member has a depth, and wherein the depth is less than about 3 centimeters.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 11, wherein the insertion member has a length, and wherein the length of the insertion member is at least about 5.5 centimeters.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 11, wherein the insertion member has a width, and each float has a width, and wherein the width of the insertion member is at least as large as the width of each float.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 11, ~~wherein the insertion member has a first side face, and~~ wherein the first side face of the insertion member is curved around an axis that is substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the dowel.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the insertion member has a second side face, and wherein the second side face is curved around the axis that is substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the dowel.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 11, ~~wherein the housing has a lateral surface, and~~ wherein the lateral surface of the housing is curved around a curvature axis that is

substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the dowel, and wherein the curvature axis is substantially collinear with the longitudinal axis of the dowel.

11. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 2;~~ An apparatus for detecting a lowering of a top surface of a liquid, comprising:

a housing having a housing hole;

an insertion member attached to the housing;

a dowel defining a dowel longitudinal axis, wherein the dowel has a first end and a second end, and wherein the dowel is inserted into the housing hole;

at least one float attached to the dowel;

a detector switch having an actuator arm, wherein the detector switch is attached to the housing, and wherein the actuator arm is located proximate the first end of the dowel; and

an audio transducer attached to the housing; and

wherein the insertion member has an insertion member hole, wherein the insertion member hole is at least partially aligned with the housing hole;

wherein the dowel is inserted through the insertion member hole and the housing hole;

and

wherein the housing has a lateral surface and a ledge, and wherein the insertion member has a first side face, and wherein the insertion member is attached to the ledge of the housing, wherein the lateral surface of the housing and the first side face of the insertion member are substantially perpendicular to the ledge of the housing, and wherein the longitudinal axis of the dowel is substantially perpendicular to the ledge of the housing.

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[1]] 11, further comprising a retaining pin attached to the dowel inside the housing.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[1]] 11, further comprising a battery socket electrically coupled to the detector switch.

14. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[1]] 11, further comprising an on/off switch electrically coupled to the detector switch and the audio transducer.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the detector switch, the audio transducer, and the on/off switch are electrically coupled in series, and wherein the detector switch is electrically closed when the actuator arm of the detector switch is not pushed by the first end of the dowel.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a test switch attached to the housing, wherein the test switch is electrically coupled in parallel with the detector switch.

17. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 11, further comprising an indicator light electrically coupled in series with the audio transducer.

18. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 25, further comprising an indicator light electrically coupled in parallel with the audio transducer.

19. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 25, further comprising an electromagnetic transmitter electrically coupled to the detector switch.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising an electromagnetic receiver for receiving a signal from the electromagnetic transmitter.

21. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 1;~~ An apparatus for detecting a lowering of a top surface of a liquid, comprising:

a housing having a housing hole;

an insertion member attached to the housing;

a dowel defining a dowel longitudinal axis, wherein the dowel has a first end and a second end, and wherein the dowel is inserted into the housing hole;

at least one float attached to the dowel;

a detector switch having an actuator arm, wherein the detector switch is attached to the housing, and wherein the actuator arm is located proximate the first end of the dowel; and

an audio transducer attached to the housing; and

wherein the detector switch has a first electrical connector and a second electrical connector, and wherein the audio transducer has a first electrical connector and a second electrical connector, and wherein the on/off switch has a first electrical connector and a second electrical connector, and where the battery socket has a first electrical connector and a second electrical connector, and wherein the second electrical connector of the detector switch is coupled to the first electrical connector of the audio transducer, and wherein the second electrical connector of the audio transducer is coupled to the first electrical connector of the battery socket, and wherein the second electrical connector of the battery socket is coupled to the first electrical connector of the on/off switch, and wherein the second electrical connector of the on/off switch is coupled to the first electrical connector of the detector switch.

22. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 11, wherein the at least one float comprises a first oblong spheroid defining a first spheroid central axis, and a second oblong spheroid defining a second spheroid central axis, wherein the dowel is inserted through the first oblong spheroid and the second oblong spheroid with the longitudinal axis of the dowel substantially collinear with the first spheroid central axis and the second spheroid central axis.

23. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 22,~~ An apparatus for detecting a lowering of a top surface of a liquid, comprising:

a housing having a housing hole;  
an insertion member attached to the housing;  
a dowel defining a dowel longitudinal axis, wherein the dowel has a first end and a second end, and wherein the dowel is inserted into the housing hole;  
at least one float attached to the dowel;  
a detector switch having an actuator arm, wherein the detector switch is attached to the housing, and wherein the actuator arm is located proximate the first end of the dowel; and  
an audio transducer attached to the housing; and  
wherein the at least one float comprises a first oblong spheroid defining a first spheroid central axis, and a second oblong spheroid defining a second spheroid central axis, wherein the dowel is inserted through the first oblong spheroid and the second oblong spheroid with the

longitudinal axis of the dowel substantially collinear with the first spheroid central axis and the second spheroid central axis; and

wherein the first oblong spheroid comprises a first cap having a hole and a first rim, and a second cap having a hole and a second rim, wherein the first rim is attached to the second rim to form the first oblong spheroid, and wherein the dowel is inserted through the hole in the first cap and the hole in the second cap, and wherein the second oblong spheroid comprises a third cap having a hole and a third rim, and a fourth cap having a hole and a fourth rim, and wherein the third rim is attached to the fourth rim to form the second oblong spheroid, and wherein the dowel is inserted through the hole in the third cap and the hole in the fourth cap.

24. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 22,~~ An apparatus for detecting a lowering of a top surface of a liquid, comprising:

a housing having a housing hole;

an insertion member attached to the housing;

a dowel defining a dowel longitudinal axis, wherein the dowel has a first end and a second end, and wherein the dowel is inserted into the housing hole;

at least one float attached to the dowel;

a detector switch having an actuator arm, wherein the detector switch is attached to the housing, and wherein the actuator arm is located proximate the first end of the dowel; and

an audio transducer attached to the housing; and

wherein the at least one float comprises a first oblong spheroid defining a first spheroid central axis, and a second oblong spheroid defining a second spheroid central axis, wherein the dowel is inserted through the first oblong spheroid and the second oblong spheroid with the longitudinal axis of the dowel substantially collinear with the first spheroid central axis and the second spheroid central axis; and

wherein the first oblong spheroid is larger than the second oblong spheroid, and wherein the first oblong spheroid and the second oblong spheroid are substantially airtight when the dowel is inserted through the first oblong spheroid and the second oblong spheroid, and wherein the second oblong spheroid is located proximate the second end of the dowel, and wherein the first oblong spheroid is located proximate the second oblong spheroid.

25. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 1,~~ An apparatus for detecting a lowering of a top surface of a liquid, comprising:

a housing having a housing hole;

an insertion member attached to the housing;

a dowel defining a dowel longitudinal axis, wherein the dowel has a first end and a second end, and wherein the dowel is inserted into the housing hole;

at least one float attached to the dowel;

a detector switch having an actuator arm, wherein the detector switch is attached to the housing, and wherein the actuator arm is located proximate the first end of the dowel; and

an audio transducer attached to the housing; and

wherein the at least one float comprises a plurality of substantially airtight containers attached to the dowel.

26. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[1]] 25, wherein the dowel has a substantially circular cross section and a length of about 31 centimeters.

27. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[1]] 25, wherein the housing is made at least partially of a transparent material, to permit viewing inside the housing.

28. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[1]] 25, wherein the audio transducer is attached to an exterior surface of the housing.

29. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 1,~~ An apparatus for detecting a lowering of a top surface of a liquid, comprising:

a housing having a housing hole;

an insertion member attached to the housing;

a dowel defining a dowel longitudinal axis, wherein the dowel has a first end and a second end, and wherein the dowel is inserted into the housing hole;

at least one float attached to the dowel;

a detector switch having an actuator arm, wherein the detector switch is attached to the housing, and wherein the actuator arm is located proximate the first end of the dowel; and



an audio transducer attached to the housing; and

wherein the housing has a bottom surface on the exterior of the housing, and wherein the audio transducer is attached to the bottom surface, and wherein the housing has a first enclosure wall adjacent the bottom surface, a second enclosure wall adjacent the bottom surface, a third enclosure wall adjacent the bottom surface, and a fourth enclosure wall adjacent the bottom surface, for protecting the audio transducer.

30. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising ~~An apparatus for detecting a decrease of the quantity of a liquid, comprising:~~

~~a housing having a housing hole;~~

~~an insertion member attached to the housing;~~

~~a dowel defining a dowel longitudinal axis, wherein the dowel has a first end and a second end, and wherein the dowel is inserted into the housing hole; —~~

~~a float attached to the dowel;~~

~~a detector switch having an actuator arm, wherein the detector switch is attached to the housing, and wherein the actuator arm is located proximate the first end of the dowel; and~~

~~an indicator light attached to the housing.~~

31. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising ~~An apparatus for detecting a decrease of the quantity of a liquid, comprising:~~

~~a housing having a housing hole;~~

~~an insertion member attached to the housing;~~

~~a dowel defining a dowel longitudinal axis, wherein the dowel has a first end and a second end, and wherein the dowel is inserted into the housing hole; —~~

~~a float attached to the dowel;~~

~~a detector switch having an actuator arm, wherein the detector switch is attached to the housing, and wherein the actuator arm is located proximate the first end of the dowel; and~~

~~an electromagnetic transmitter attached to the housing.~~

32-44. (canceled).